

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /140 W

-----062985 030242Z /64

R 021807Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS CARACAS 4997

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC ENRG VE

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: OFFSHORE DRILLING RIGS

REF: STATE 136936

1. EIGHTEEN INTERNATIONAL OFFSHORE DRILLING CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 12 U.S. FIRMS, WERE INVITED TO TENDER ON THE SUPPLY OF A TOTAL OF THREE RIGS TO PERFORM EXPLORATORY OFFSHORE DRILLING FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO TWO YEARS. DRILLING IS EXPECTED TO BE CONCENTRATED IN THE AREAS OF ENSENADA DE LA VELA, GOLFO TRISTE, AND OFF THE ORINOCO RIVER DELTA. INVITATIONS TO TENDER WERE ISSUED BY A SPECIAL COMMITTEE FORMED BY PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE OF ITS MAJOR OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES, LAGOVEN, MARAVEN, AND CVP; WHILE THIS WAS NOT A PUBLIC TENDER, WE UNDERSTAND THE COMMITTEE CONTACTED ALL OR MOST OF THOSE CONTRACTORS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PROVIDING SUCH SERVICES.

2. THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING BIDS WAS MAY 22, BUT WHICH TIME 14 COMPANIES HAD BID. ONE BID SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING DAY WAS REPORTEDLY

REJECTED BECAUSE IT HAD NOT MET THE DEADLINE TO AWARD CONTRACTS SHORTLY. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR DRILLING TO START IN OCTOBER 1978.

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3. IN THIS, AS IN THE MAJOR REFINERY PROJECTS, PETROLEOS AND ITS OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES HAVE FOLLOWED THEIR PREFERRED PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES BY GOING DIRECTLY TO THOSE COMPANIES THEY KNOW OR WHICH ARE KNOWN TO THE EX-CONCESSIONARIES, SUCH AS EXXON AND SHELL, WITH WHICH PETROLEOS HAS TECHNICAL SERVICE CONTRACTS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OFFSHORE DRILLING, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, PROPOSALS (BID)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014